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DELIVER TO GENERAL HAIG FOR MR. KISSINGER AT AMBASSADOR
WATSON'S RESIDENCE.

OCTOBER 9, 1972

DOS, OSD reviews
completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

MORI/CDF C03353752

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT:

INFORMATION ITEMS

INDOCHINA MILITARY SITUATION: IN NORTH VIETNAM, 375 U.S. TACTICAL
AIR SORTIES WERE SCHEDULED TO HIT TRUCK PARKS, STORAGE AREAS, BAR-
RACKS, AND BRIDGES. SOME OF THE SORTIES MAY HAVE BEEN DIVERTED
TO SECONDARY TARGETS BECAUSE OF BAD WEATHER IN THE MOUNTAINS AND
DELTA REGION. IN SOUTH VIETNAM, 155 U.S. AND 200 VNAF TACTICAL
AIR SORTIES WERE FLOWN. TWENTY-FIVE B-52 MISSIONS WERE FLOWN IN
NORTH VIETNAM, FOUR IN CAMBODIA, AND THREE IN LAOS.

THE MARINE OFFENSIVE NORTH OF QUANG TRI CITY MET MODERATE ENEMY RESISTANCE, WHILE THE AIRBORNE DIVISION MADE SOME PROGRESS TOWARD FIRE SUPPORT BASE ANNE DESPITE DELAYS CAUSED BY ENEMY MORTAR AND ARTILLERY FIRE. ACTIVITY IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE WAS AT THE LOWEST LEVEL IN SEVERAL WEEKS AND THE ENEMY APPEARS TO BE AVOIDING CONTACT. A PRIMARY VIET CONG OBJECTIVE IS TO EXTRACT A LARGE SHARE OF THE RICE BEING HARVESTED IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE PROVINCE. SECOND ARVN DIVISION ELEMENTS ARE ABOUT THREE MILES FROM LINK-UP ON ROUTE 1 BETWEEN NO DUC AND DUC PHO. FRIENDLY ELEMENTS ARE EXPANDING THEIR AREA OF CONTROL AROUND BA TO. FOUR ENEMY WERE CAPTURED AND 171 WERE KILLED IN ACTIONS THROUGHOUT THE REGION WHILE FRIENDLY LOSSES WERE 36 KILLED AND 200 WOUNDED.

ACTIVITY IN MILITARY REGION 2 CONSISTED OF LIGHT SCATTERED ACTIONS. IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS, AN ENEMY FORCE ATTACKED THE PLEI MRONG RANGER CAMP WITH 50 MORTAR ROUNDS FOLLOWED BY A GROUND PROBE, PROBABLY TO TEST DEFENSES AT THE CAMP.

IN MILITARY REGION 3, ENEMY ACTIVITY REMAINED AT AN INCREASED LEVEL AND WAS CENTERED IN SOUTH BINH DUONG PROVINCE. SCATTERED MODERATE-TO-HEAVY ATTACKS-BY-FIRE AND GROUND CONTACTS OCCURRED NEAR QUAN LOI, WHERE THE ENEMY INCREASED RESISTANCE.

IN MILITARY REGION 4, THE PATTERN OF ENEMY HARASSING ATTACKS-BY-FIRE CONTINUED AGAINST LINES OF COMMUNICATION IN KIEN GIANG AND DINH TUONG PROVINCES.

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IN CAMBODIA, SOME FANK POSITIONS IN THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS AREA HAVE BEEN EVACUATED UNDER PRESSURE. A LARGE-SCALE ENEMY RESUPPLY EFFORT WAS UNDERWAY IN SOUTHEASTERN CAMBODIA BETWEEN OCTOBER 4 AND 7. HEAVY PEDESTRIAN, TRUCK, AND MOTORCYCLE TRAFFIC WAS SEEN ALONG ROUTE 15 MOVING TOWARD PREY VENG CITY FROM THE CHUP AREA. OTHER TRAFFIC WAS SEEN MOVING EASTWARD TOWARD SVEY RIENG CITY. THE TRAFFIC MAY BE HEADED FOR MILITARY REGION 3 IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

A MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IS AT TAB A.

TAIPEI REMAINS CALM IN WAKE OF BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TOKYO: ACCORDING TO EMBASSY TAIPEI, TAIWAN REMAINS CALM ONE WEEK AFTER THE BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND JAPAN. ANTI-JAPANESE EMOTIONS ARE COOLING NOTICEABLY, HELPED ALONG BY GOVERNMENT ALLUSIONS TO THE NEED FOR THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION THROUGH AN OBJECTIVE CALCULATION OF ITS REAL INTERESTS. IN ADDITION, THE FOLLOWING FACTORS FIGURE IN THIS REACTION:

- THE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT HAS HEAVILY PUBLICIZED U.S. STATEMENTS MADE IN THE WAKE OF JAPAN'S ACTION THAT STRESS OUR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA.
- THERE HAS BEEN AN ABSENCE OF CARPING ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE SITUATION. THIS MAY BE EXPLAINED PRINCIPALLY IN TERMS OF A POPULAR AWARENESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S INABILITY TO BLOCK TOKYO'S MOVE.

OF CHINA AND JAPAN WILL BENEFIT FROM AVOIDING ANY RADICAL CHANGE IN THEIR NONDIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, AND THAT, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING, PEKING WILL TOLERATE UNOFFICIAL TIES IN THE AREAS OF TRADE AND CULTURE.

PHILIPPINE MARTIAL LAW - MARCOS STILL VERY MUCH IN CONTROL:
ACCORDING TO EMBASSY MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES -- NOW AT THE END OF THE SECOND WEEK OF PRESIDENT MARCOS' MARTIAL LAW -- IS CHARACTERIZED BY A GENERAL FEELING OF RELIEF AND SOME HOPE FOR THE FUTURE, TOGETHER WITH A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT'S REFORM PROGRAM. THE POPULATION IS GOING ALONG WITH MARTIAL LAW, DESPITE SOME SUSPICION OF PRESIDENT MARCOS' MOTIVATIONS.

-- THE MILITARY, PARTICULARLY AT THE SENIOR OFFICER LEVEL, APPEARS COMMITTED TO THE MARCOS PROGRAM.

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-- THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IS DISPLAYING CONFIDENCE AND POSITIVE ATTITUDES -- THOUGH SOMEWHAT SHORT ON ANY SENSE OF REAL COMMITMENT TO THE NEW APPROACH.

-- THE MEDIA, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT HANDLED PARTICULARLY SKILLFULLY, ALONG WITH THE ADULT ACADEMIC COMMUNITY APPEAR WILLING TO GIVE MARCOS THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT AT THIS POINT. STUDENT INVOLVEMENT HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY DISSIPATED BY SCHOOL CLOSINGS.

-- THE OPPOSITION LIBERAL PARTY AND ORGANIZED LABOR ARE, OF COURSE, DEFINITELY OPPOSED TO MARTIAL LAW BUT ARE RESIGNED TO IT FOR THE PRESENT.

-- THE COUNTRYSIDE HAS BEEN RESTRAINED BUT ESSENTIALLY FAVORABLE IN ITS REACTION.

-- AS REGARDS THE U.S. ROLE, THE GENERAL BELIEF, DESPITE OUR DENIALS, IS THAT WE HAVE SUPPORTED IT.

PLANS FOR KIDNAPPING IN GUATEMALA: A GUATEMALAN OFFICIAL REPORTS THAT THE TERRORIST REBEL ARMED FORCES (FAR) WILL TRY TO KIDNAP THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO GUATEMALA ON MONDAY AFTERNOON. IF THIS PROVES IMPOSSIBLE, THE FAR WILL THEN TRY TO KIDNAP THE WEST GERMAN OR THE U.S. AMBASSADOR ON THE SAME DAY. THE PURPOSE IS TO FORCE THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT EITHER TO RELEASE THE LEADERS OF THE GUATEMALAN COMMUNIST PARTY (WHO WERE ARRESTED ON SEPTEMBER 26) OR TO ADMIT THAT THEY HAVE BEEN KILLED. THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT HAS DENIED REPORTS THAT THE TOP LEADERS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY WERE ARRESTED. GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT ARANA IS AWARE OF THE PLANS OF THE FAR AND OUR AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN INFORMED.